Commercial utilisation of surplus railway land

370. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for commercial utilisation of surplus railway land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given discretionary powers to release such land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria fixed for utilisation of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To begin with Railways have, so far, identified 53 sites in the First Phase for commercial development. Feasibility study of each site in the first stage is being done in order to ascertain the commercial potential of such sites and action has been initiated to choose suitable developers through an open and competitive bidding process.

(c) and (d) General Managers have been delegated powers to execute small schemes of commercial nature upto the limit of 1000 sq. m. built-up area in other than four Metropolitan Cities. They are also authorised to award Studies/Consultancies connected with property development with M/s RITES/M/s IRCON, the two Railway PSUs, upto a limit of Rs. 50 lakhs per case subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 crore in a year.

(e) Utilisation of lands for commercial purposes is decided on the basis of a professional study which projects the likely returns from the property and the benefits which Railways can draw therefrom.